

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 19 and 20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8 and 19 are amended and claims 16-18 are cancelled.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Lee in the June 1, 2006 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Restriction was asserted and claims 1-8, 19 and 20 were elected. By this Amendment, claims 16-18 are cancelled and claims 9-15 are maintained because claim 1 remains generic to claims 9-15. Applicant thus requests rejoinder of claims 9-15 when claim 1 is allowed. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications based on cancelled claims 16-18.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and has been amended responsive to the rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 6, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-U-6-21949 (JP'949). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, JP'949 fails to disclose a flexible cable harness with a plurality of flexible cables that each include a first positioning system and a second positioning system added to the curved portion, as recited in claims 1 and 19. By using a plurality of flexible cables that each include added first and second positioning systems of claims 1 and 19, manufacturing various flexible cables is simplified, production costs are reduced and positioning fluctuations are minimized (paragraphs [0036] - [0038] of Applicant's specification, for example).

JP'949 discloses a flexible cable harness with cables 13-17 that are pressed by a cable presser-foot plate 29 at a first end and by a lateral surface of the carriage 7 (paragraph [0004]

of translation). JP'949 fails to provide any disclosure with regard to any structure that is added to the cables 13-17 or first and second positioning systems that are added to the cables 13-17.

Page 3 of the Office Action identifies portions of the cables 13-17 near the presser-foot plate 29 and splicers 21, 23 as the first and second positioning systems. However, JP'949 fails to disclose any structure with or added to the identified portions of the cables 13-17 or first and second positioning systems for the cables 13-17. JP'949 simply discloses cables 13-17.

By failing to disclose the first and second positioning systems of claims 1 and 19, JP'949 fails to achieve the advantages identified in paragraphs [0036] - [0038] of Applicant's specification, for example.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP'949 in view of Serizawa et al. (Serizawa), U.S. Patent No. 6,257,898. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Serizawa fails to overcome the deficiencies of JP'949 in disclosing a first positioning system and a second positioning system added for each of a plurality of flexible cables, as recited in claim 1. As discussed during the personal interview, Serizawa fails to disclose a plurality of flexible cables, and thus fails to suffer the same problems as presented in JP'949. It would thus not be obvious to combine JP'949 and Serizawa. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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